



National Institutes of Health  
National Institute of  
General Medical Sciences  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

March 25, 2002

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are writing to invite your Program evaluator to participate in the "Conference for Evaluators of MORE (Minority Opportunities in REsearch) Programs" to be held on June 17-19, 2002, at the Bethesda Marriott Hotel at 5151 Pooks Hill Road, Bethesda. The basic question to be addressed at the conference is whether the evaluation of MORE Programs is having the intended impact, which is to guide institutions in their efforts to increase the number of productive biomedical researchers.

The specific issues to be addressed at the Conference include:

- a) Which are the best methods to capture and report data to determine whether institutions are succeeding in their efforts to increase the number of underrepresented minority students entering graduate school and biomedical research careers and becoming productive biomedical researchers?
- b) Which are the best methods to analyze and report data on the relative effectiveness of the various specific MORE Program-funded components (e.g. research experience, mentoring, institutional infrastructure improvement, etc.) in achieving the MORE Program goals and objectives?
- c) In order to improve program planning, which research needs to be performed to address preconceived notions as to the effectiveness of current program activities and/or interventions on the MORE goals and objectives?

In addressing these issues, we would like the conference participants to discuss and make recommendations for obtaining and reporting quantitative and qualitative data on, e.g., baseline measures, outcome measures, student tracking, and factors that are most influential in channeling students' career choices. We would like the participants to also consider and recommend optimal means of collecting the data in analyzable, uniform form for collation and comparison among programs nationwide.

We are planning the majority of the conference time for participants to brainstorm these issues in breakout, reporting, and plenary discussion sessions. We would prefer that conference participants come prepared to discuss these issues, rather than to present data. However, limited audiovisual facilities will be available if any participants have burning issues to present. The tentative conference agenda is attached. The conference can accommodate 150 participants. Since it is designed primarily for evaluators, we would appreciate your forwarding this letter to your Program evaluator(s), who will be given priority. Program Directors are welcome at the conference on a first come, first served basis if places are available after accommodating the evaluators.

If your program evaluator and/or you would like to participate in the conference, please download a registration form on the conference website: <http://pub.nigms.nih.gov/evaluators> (NOTE: This website opens **APRIL 10, 2002**).

Please note that you cannot register for the conference online. Completed registration forms should be faxed to Ms. Laura Livingston at (202) 331-0111. To pay the registration fee, please make check or money order payable to Courtesy Associates and send it to:

Laura Livingston  
Courtesy Associates, Inc.  
2025 M Street, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20036

If you have questions about logistics, please contact Ms. Laura Livingston at Courtesy Associates (202-367-2498, or [llivingston@courtesyassoc.com](mailto:llivingston@courtesyassoc.com)). (Note the double "LL" in this email address). If you have other questions, please contact us. We hope to see you in June.

Sincerely,

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